

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 6, 17, 19 and 20 are amended. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure. Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 21-23 are added, and are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 13, lines 17-18 and claim 6. Claims 1-10, 17 and 19-23 are pending in the application.

Telephone Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on July 17, 2007 with the undersigned. During the interview, claims 1 and 6 were discussed along with the Kobayashi reference. The arguments presented herein reflect the arguments presented by Applicants during the telephone interview. No agreement was reached concerning allowable subject matter.

Deletion of Inventors Under 37 CFR 1.48(b)

Applicants request acknowledgement that the request for deletion of inventors filed on December 22, 2006 has been received and approved.

Claims 17-20

Claims 17-20 are indicated as being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17 and 19-20 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Consideration of claims 17 and 19-20 is requested.

35 USC §103(a) Rejections:

Claims 1- 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (US 5,771, 058) in view of Gilliam et al. (US 5,699,601).

Claims 1 and 9 are directed to a modular card reorienting mechanism for use in a card processing machine and require, among other features, a chassis, an electric motor mounted on the chassis, a card reorienting device rotatably mounted on the chassis and a drive train between the motor and the reorienting device. As described, the modular construction of the card reorienting mechanism allows it to be quickly and easily

connected both mechanically and electrically to the remainder of the card processing machine (page 2, lines 24-26).

The MPEP indicates that claim language is to be given its broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification, and that the broadest reasonable interpretation must also be consistent with the interpretation that those skilled in the art would reach. MPEP 2111. Further, words in a claim are to be given their plain meaning unless applicant has provided a clear definition in the specification. MPEP 2111.01.

The ordinary meaning of a chassis is “the supporting frame of a structure; the frame and working parts...exclusive of the body or housing”. See Merriam-Webster’s Online dictionary, www.m-w.com. This meaning is consistent with the exemplary embodiment of the chassis 30 described and illustrated in the application (page 8, lines 4-5).

Kobayashi is characterized as teaching a chassis 10 with an electric motor that rotates a card reorienting device. Item 10 is described by Kobayashi as a card turning device (column 4, lines 8-9). Numeral 10 refers to the entire card turning device of Kobayashi which would include a housing. However, numeral 10 is not the chassis itself. It is incorrect to characterize item 10 in Kobayashi as a chassis since the item 10 does not satisfy the ordinary meaning of the word chassis. Instead, the chassis in Kobayashi is more properly the element 50 referred to in Kobayashi as a support base (column 4, lines 52-53).

Considering the support base 50 as the chassis, Kobayashi does not teach either motor 32, 41 mounted on the support base 50. The Kobayashi description appears to be silent as to where the motors 32, 41 are mounted. The figures in Kobayashi illustrate that the motors 32, 41 are mounted in the device 10 separate from the support base 50. Kobayashi simply does not teach or suggest mounting a motor on a chassis. As a result, the support base 50 and the motors 32, 41 do not comprise a modular card reorienting mechanism. The support base 50 and motors 32, 41 in Kobayashi appear to require separate mounting within the device 10, thereby increasing the difficulty in assembling the device 10 to the rest of the printer PRT.

Gilliam is relied upon for teaching a fastenerless mechanism for connecting housing members together. Without agreeing with this characterization, Gilliam does not teach a chassis with an electric motor mounted on the chassis.

Therefore, claims 1 and 9 are patentable over Kobayashi and Gilliam.

With respect to claim 6, which depends from claim 1, Applicants note that claim 6 requires that the transport devices be actuatable by the motor, the same motor recited in claim 1 as being able to rotate the card reorienting device. Kobayashi does not teach a single motor that does both of these functions. Instead, Kobayashi requires separate motors 32, 41, with the motor 32 rotating the turning means 30 and the motor 41 driving the feed rollers (column 5, lines 20-24 and 33-45). Gilliam does not remedy this deficiency of Kobayashi. Therefore, claim 6 is patentable over Kobayashi and Gilliam.

For at least these reasons, the claims are patentable over Kobayashi and Gilliam.

CONCLUSION

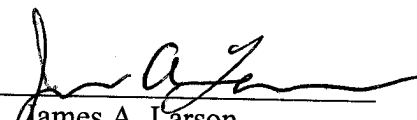
Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, James A. Larson (Reg. No. 40,443), at (612) 455-3805.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

Dated: September 21, 2007

By:


James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443